

U.S. Embassy Bahrain

Message to U.S. Citizens – August 17, 2012

Recommended Actions at Official & Unofficial Checkpoints/Roadblocks

We would like to remind all U.S. citizens on what they should do when they encounter official (police) checkpoints and unofficial roadblocks. Below are the recommended actions when encountering these types of situations:

Actions at Official Police Checkpoints

1. Do not panic, be polite.
2. Always obey the lawful commands of government personnel manning official checkpoints.
3. Do not attempt to run through the checkpoint.
4. Make sure your doors are locked and windows closed.
5. If necessary, roll your window down just far enough to talk.
6. If they insist on ID, present your CPR card or U.S. passport (for tourists). At no time should you relinquish control of the ID to those not in an official uniform.
8. If asked, "where are you going?" state where (traveling home or to my hotel).

Actions at Unofficial Roadblocks

THESE RECOMMENDED ACTIONS ARE FOR UNOFFICIAL, NON-GOVERNMENT OF BAHRAIN, VIGILANTE - TYPE ROADBLOCKS ONLY:

1. Remain calm, do not panic.
2. Do not get out of your car.
3. Ensure your doors are locked and your windows are up.
4. Try and extricate yourself from the situation by calmly turning your car around and driving the opposite way.
5. If you are unable to drive away, and can call the Bahraini police (999) - relay the following information to them:
 - Your location
 - Your situation
 - Your cell phone number
6. Ask the police to stay on the line with you until the situation resolves itself.

Never attempt to remove debris at a roadblock yourself. If a roadblock is unmanned, only as a last resort should you utilize your car to run a roadblock, but at times this may be necessary. If people either attempt to enter your car, or projectiles of any type start striking your vehicle, do not concern yourself with the condition of the vehicle and immediately take evasive action by driving out of the area the quickest way possible – whether that involves car on car contact or proceeding through the roadblock – take action.

Your overarching goal is to get out of situation as quickly as possible while simultaneously remaining calm.

Once you are safely out of the area and can get to a safe location, report the incident to manamaconsular@state.gov.

The U.S. Embassy in Manama cannot predict every scenario you may encounter; however, by remaining cognizant of the off-limits areas outlined in travel alert map you will be better prepared if you encounter this type of situation.

UPDATED TRAVEL ALERT MAP

Map of Bahrain. Areas shaded in red are off-limits to Embassy U.S. citizen employees and their family members. Areas shaded in blue are off-limits to Embassy U.S. citizen employees and their family members 20:00 – 04:00.



